



Boundary County

September 2020

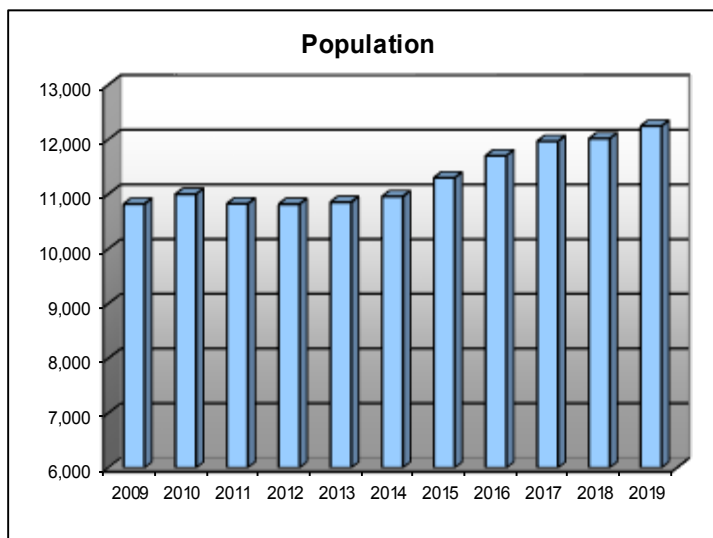
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DEPT. OF LABOR

Workforce Trends

Population

Boundary County's scenery, recreational opportunities, quality of life and expanding job market drew many new residents in the 1980s and 1990s. But in 2001, economic trouble began slowing population growth. Growth resumed in 2005 with the statewide expansion. The county's lower housing costs and rural lifestyle drew some people from neighboring Bonner County. But from 2009 to 2019, the county's population grew 13 percent from 10,819 to 12,245 while Idaho's population grew 15 percent and the U.S. population grew 7 percent.

About 90 percent of the county is forested so most of the people live in the Kootenai River Valley, where Bonners Ferry had a population of 2,637 in 2019 and Moyie Springs had a population of 761.

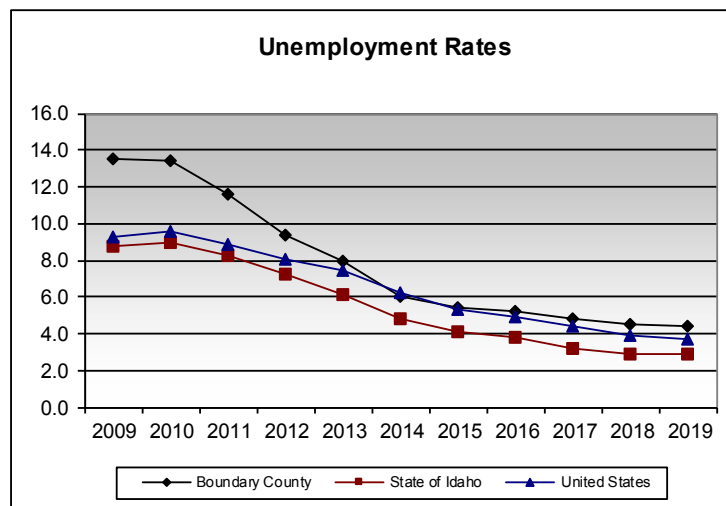


Labor Force & Employment

Timber and agriculture are the county's mainstays. However, the economy continues to slowly diversify as health care, manufacturing and retail play an increasingly important role. Next to Boundary County government, Boundary Community Hospital is the largest employer and Idaho Forest Group and Welco are the largest private employers.

Agriculture's importance increased in the 1980s when Anheuser-Busch began growing hops at Elk Mountain Farms, and several ornamental tree nurseries and Christmas tree farms opened. With the change in ownership from Anheuser-Busch to the Belgium-based InBev company—forming Anheuser-Busch InBev, Elk Mountain Farms cut back production and remains in flux.

In 1986, the Kootenai Tribe opened the Kootenai

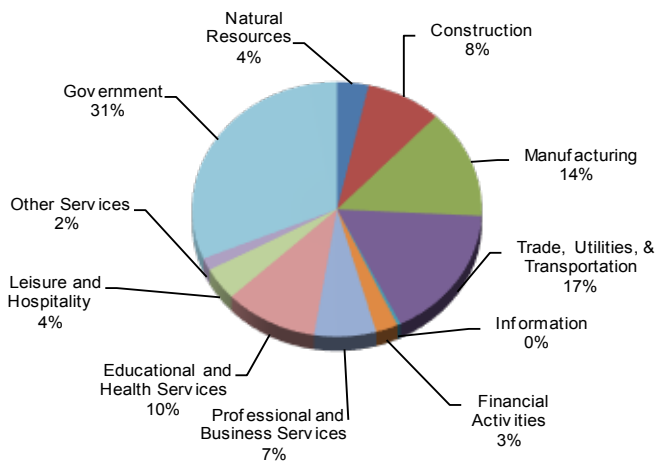


River Inn, giving the county's tourism sector new potential. In the 1990s, it added a casino and most recently expanded on its hotel. The county also benefits from economic activity at its two ports of entry on the Canadian border—Porthill and Eastport. Imports increased 24 percent at the two ports through the depths of the recession and exports increased 37 percent from 2009 to 2011. Bonners Ferry, named by tourists as Idaho's "friendliest city," has made major improvements to its downtown to attract more visitors.

Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	5,366	5,540
Total Employment	5,126	5,268
Unemployed	240	272
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	4,410	5,368	5,386	5,221	4,907	4,908	5,091	5,114	5,150	5,265	5,376
Unemployment	598	720	623	492	391	295	275	268	247	237	238
% of Labor Force Unemployed	13.6	13.4	11.6	9.4	8.0	6.0	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.4
Employment	3,812	4,648	4,763	4,729	4,516	4,613	4,816	4,846	4,903	5,028	5,138

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Economic Development

The county's long-term success in diversifying and expanding its economy provides a good environment for attracting new businesses. Population growth and increased tourism also help the county's businesses thrive.

From 2000 to 2017, the number of private-sector employers in Boundary County grew 15 percent from 374 to 430. The industries creating the most new businesses were health care and professional and business services. The Boundary Economic Development Council has been vital in providing opportunities for businesses to locate and prosper in the county.

Large Employers

Boundary Community Hospital
Boundary Regional Community Health (clinic)
Safeway
Elk Mountain Farms
Idaho Educational Services (schools)
Idaho Forest Group (mill)
Kootenai River Inn & Casino
U.S. Government (border patrol & forest service)

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$11.92	\$18.00
Carpenters	\$14.82	\$20.89
Cashiers	\$9.11	\$11.41
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.35	\$12.83
Farmworkers & Laborers - Crop	\$10.14	\$13.90
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.65	\$12.71
Laborers, General	\$11.71	\$15.14
Millwrights	\$19.63	\$25.06
Office Clerks, General	\$10.70	\$16.26
Registered Nurses	\$25.94	\$35.10
Retail Salespersons	\$10.02	\$14.58
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.08	\$16.82
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor	\$15.05	\$23.45

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,414	\$29,971	3,648	\$37,176	3,732	\$38,799
Agriculture	348	\$32,219	366	\$37,971	370	\$40,461
Mining	*	*	**	**	**	**
Construction	232	\$28,233	246	\$47,383	294	\$48,879
Manufacturing	283	\$39,389	463	\$46,649	484	\$46,259
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	568	\$28,406	564	\$32,825	586	\$36,696
Information	18	\$13,665	19	\$33,546	12	\$33,869
Financial Activities	90	\$36,246	82	\$37,858	84	\$40,969
Professional and Business Services	245	\$24,964	224	\$34,727	242	\$35,595
Educational and Health Services	368	\$29,439	390	\$29,544	367	\$30,130
Leisure and Hospitality	124	\$11,170	136	\$12,824	145	\$12,809
Other Services	59	\$20,193	58	\$24,677	55	\$25,995
Government	1,079	\$31,743	1,096	\$39,699	1,088	\$40,888

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Boundary County	\$25,844	\$27,305	\$29,416	\$31,024	\$32,229	\$33,995	\$34,377	\$33,709	\$34,792	\$36,934
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis